

## CURRENT GOSSIP IN THE WORLD OF SPORT

**Brotherhood Leaders Now Big Men in Organized Baseball.**

### OLD PREJUDICE FORGOTTEN

Comiskey, McAleer, Ward and Mack in the Saddle—The Juana Turf Venture Blocked.

When the Brotherhood of Ball Players tried to break the National League in 1900 the men who spent more than \$1,000,000 to preserve the game decided that under no circumstances would the persons who indulged in the players' League movement become prominent in the government of the sport. That was an objection to the return of the seven players to the National Association; however, and among the first to sign organized baseball contracts after the war were John M. Ward, James McAleer, Buck Ewing, Mike Kelly, Tim Keefe, Connie Mack, Edward Hanlon, Charles Comiskey and Arthur Irwin. But the old magnates took excellent care to see these former stars of the diamond get their thumbs.

With the passing of the club owners A. H. Stoen, W. H. Conant and J. B. Billings of Boston, John B. Day of New York, C. H. Kene and F. A. Abel of Brooklyn, A. G. Spalding and James Hart of Chicago, A. L. Brown and John L. Rogers of Philadelphia, and H. H. Chapman of St. Louis, who fought the Brotherhood successfully, the big clubs were controlled by men who had no grievances and who saw no reason why the Brotherhood leaders could not become financially interested.

The formation of the American League by Ban Johnson afforded an opening for Comiskey, who too held of the Chicago franchise in that prosperous circuit and proceeded to build up a fortune with the White Sox. Comiskey's power increased and soon he became the most powerful magnate in the American League. Mack soon gained a chance to become famous as a member of the syndicate which got a heavy stockholder. McAleer, manager of the St. Louis Browns and the owner of the Washingtons, is part owner and president of the Boston Americans. Arthur Irwin, after many ups and downs, is high in the councils of the New York Americans, while last but not least John M. Ward, the organizer of the Brotherhood plot, is the president and owner of one-third interest in the Boston National League Club. Of the other Brotherhood leaders Kelly and Ewing are dead. Keefe is a property owner in Cambridge, Mass., and Hanlon is living in retirement in Baltimore, though still anxious to buy a major league franchise.

The most prominent and most magnate still in the game is John L. Brush, owner of the Giants, who for many years was bitterly opposed to Ward and the others. In recent years Brush and Ward have become close friends and the latter was Brush's candidate for the National League presidency two years ago. There is no doubt that Ward could have purchased the New York club at the close of the season of 1904, when the Giants, under his leadership, won the Temple cup. But Ward was determined to retire from baseball to practice law, so the New York club was sold to Andrew Freedman, and subsequently passed into the hands of Brush.

The success of Comiskey and Mack has been remarkable and is wholly due to the practical experience. Whether Ward and McAleer, who are going to make a hard fight for Boston's patronage in future, can produce similar results remains to be seen, but it cannot be said that they are lacking knowledge of baseball tactics. It is worthy of note, by the way, that while Comiskey, Mack, Ward, McAleer and Irwin seem ready to tear down the baseball structure more than twenty years ago, they are standing firm in the cause of the National Agreement, without which the game could not have its present prosperity.

In California, the state will not down easily, and a big race track will be in full swing at the Juana, Mexico, just across the southern border of this State. It is to be built in San Francisco and Los Angeles, and will be financed by the financial support of Adolph Sosnicki, Thomas H. Williams, Henderson, McLean, Ward and others. As we noted in our last issue, it is felt that there is nothing in the project but the reason that there is a tacit understanding between the Mexican and Mexican governments that a racing concession to the Juana will be forthcoming. It is a well known fact that several years ago a Western horseman, now retired, secured such a concession from the Diaz regime, but it was afterward revoked. President Madero is said to be unwillingly opposed to racing at the Juana and is set upon getting the game out of the country. But the same time it is reported that Madero will not interfere with the new racing in Mexico City, which was opened during the summer.

Racing in California may be revived before the Panama exposition in June, but it is said that it depends upon the outcome of the Pan-American games in this State. If racing is resumed here it is predicted that there will be favorable legislation on both divisions, not only in California but also in Los Angeles, the racing of the tracks in New Orleans is expected to many leading business men.

Charles Kohler of this city, who has purchased the best of S. H. Redditch horses and has gone to England to ask for licenses for horses and Shilling from the Jockey Club, has been made a director of the Saratoga Racing Association.

The racing clubs in the State are banding together for the purpose of defeating提案 to repeal the Frayling law. There are nearly seventy-five clubs licensed by the State Athletic Commission, and these men advised to their patrons supporters of boxing dealers that more than 900 citizens are opposed to the racing clause.

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